

Mr. Speaker, is our government at war with our own country? This Nation has the obligation to protect our borders, and those who play the role of Benedict Arnold and help Mexico to illegally invade the United States should be held publicly accountable and dealt with by the American public. And that's just the way it is.

WALL STREET IGNORES MAIN STREET

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the Dow Jones will hit a record and the Nation's economists will be doing their hosannas, but who profits when factories and businesses are closed in the United States and cheap goods made by no-rights, no-benefits, low-wage Chinese workers flood our markets?

We have an \$804 billion trade deficit. Hello?

Since 1982, \$4.5 trillion in assets have been transferred from American to foreign owners. Hello?

Wall Street thumps their golden tub for the Wal-Marts and the cigarette-peddling Altrias while record numbers of Americans are laid off, file bankruptcy, lose their homes, their health care benefits, their retirement and savings, and in some cases, their families. Why do we celebrate Wall Street when Wall Street does not celebrate Main Street?

Wall Street makes a killing while gas prices soar, health care costs skyrocket, and food prices increase. We need a new way to measure our economy, as in how many people are working at good-paying jobs and have job security, and how many have health and retirement benefits.

Let us create economic progress for all in America, not just for a privileged few.

AMNESTY IS NOT THE ANSWER

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, the most controversial issue in this illegal immigration debate is amnesty. Opponents say it rewards illegal behavior. Supporters say it is not amnesty because they pay a \$2,000 fine. Who is right?

Well, consider this analogy. Somebody robs a bank and gets away with \$1 million. Our government tells him he can keep the money, but we expect him to pay a \$2,000 fine.

Now apply that to illegal immigration. A person breaks our laws by sneaking across the border. They then commit a felony by using a fake Social Security card to get a job. Our government tells them they won't be prosecuted; rather, they can remain in this country and apply for citizenship as long as they pay a \$2,000 fine.

In both cases, the bank robber and the illegal alien get to retain the benefit of their illegal behavior merely by paying a small fine. Common sense and history tell you that rewarding illegal behavior will only encourage more of it. After granting amnesty to illegals 20 years ago, we have gone from 3 million illegals to 11 million illegals. Our government has been fooled once by this amnesty argument, let us not be fooled again.

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MCALLEN-EDINBURG-PHARR REGION OF TEXAS

(Mr. HINOJOSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, this week, the business periodical INC.com named the McAllen-Edinburg-Pharr region in my congressional district in Texas as its second hottest mid-size metropolitan area in the country.

When I first came to Congress nearly 10 years ago, this area was one of the poorest, economically deprived and most neglected regions of the country. It was plagued with three decades of double digit unemployment rates. I made it one of my primary goals to help curb these trends, and I am thankful to have seen that dream come true in 2006.

Today, the area is booming. The population has increased by 48 percent in 10 years. Creation of new jobs is up substantially, and the unemployment rate is now below 8 percent. Children are graduating from high school and accessing higher education, and more students are seeking advanced college degrees. I have seen the increase in Federal resources, investments in human capital and infrastructure. Thanks to business investment, job training programs and open markets, McAllen, Edinburg, and Pharr are models of achievement for the rest of the country.

The successes experienced in this region are the results of a collaborative effort by community leaders and a tremendous amount of hard work.

I congratulate all those involved in so many of the projects, conversations and planning that we had along the way. We must continue our collaborative efforts to improve the quality of life in South Texas.

OUR THRIVING ECONOMY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, House Republicans took action to block tax increases on working families, seniors and small businesses by voting to pass the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005. It was an honor to join my colleagues in working to help every American family keep more of their hard-earned money. After all, Republicans know that indi-

vidual households know how to spend their own money much better than the Federal Government does.

Tax relief, along with other pro-growth policies, is helping the U.S. economy grow at a fiery pace. Recently, the U.S. Department of Commerce reported that the U.S. gross domestic product, GDP, grew 4.8 percent in the first quarter of this year. Our economy has created more than 5 million good-paying jobs since August 2003, and the unemployment is lower than the average of the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s.

Despite the Democrats' efforts to paint a gloomy picture, Americans are reaping the benefits of our tax cuts and are thoroughly enjoying the success of our economic boom.

GAO PTSD REPORT RELEASE

(Mr. MICHAUD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to make my colleagues aware of a GAO study being released today.

GAO studied services at the Department of Defense and the VA to help identify and treat veterans of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom who may be at risk for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

GAO found only 22 percent of personnel who were at risk for PTSD were referred by DOD providers for further evaluation.

When 78 percent who were at risk do not get referrals, then this is clear the assessment system is not working. Health assessment and reassessment are absolutely the right thing to do, and I applaud DOD for these programs.

But if we are not confident that those who need further evaluation will actually receive it, what purpose does it serve?

We need early assessment, diagnosis and counseling to prevent the effects of PTSD. This Congress needs to press both DOD and VA to do a better job in helping veterans with PTSD and other mental health issues.

HONORING NORFOLK'S TOP COPS

(Mrs. DRAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DRAKE. Today, the Fraternal Order of Police will honor two of Norfolk's own as part of their annual ceremony honoring the Nation's "top cops." Investigators Judy Hash and Earl Killmon will be recognized for their contributions in disrupting a violent drug ring and bringing a suspected cop killer to justice. What began as an investigation into the murder of a North Carolina police chief during a routine traffic stop quickly began to provide leads to individuals distributing cocaine, marijuana and ecstasy and committing acts of violence stretching over State lines.